

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1155
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UNCLAS PRAGUE 2817

FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, CZ
SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: CU/ARTS: GEORGE WEIN

REF: STATE 225801

1. WE FEEL IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT U.S. GROUPS CONTINUE APPEAR AT PRAGUE JAZZ FESTIVAL SINCE THIS PROVIDES ONE OF FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC APPEARANCES BY AMERICAN MUSICIANS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IN ABSENCE STEADY FLOW CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, PARTIAL SUBSIDY OF AMERICAN MUSICIANS WORKING UNDER CONTRACT WITH LOCAL SPONSORS SEEMS MOST ECONOMICAL WAY ASSURING CONTINUED U.S. REPRESENTATION IN PRESTIGIOUS LOCAL MUSICAL EVENTS.

2. THIS YEAR PRAGUE JAZZ FESTIVAL SCHEDULING TWO U.S. BANDS. GIVEN U.S. PREEMINENCE IN JAZZ PRAGOKONCERT WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE U.S. GROUP, SHOULD CU DROP ITS SUPPORT MUSICIANS TRAVELING EASTERN EUROPE. CONTINUED SCHEDULING OF SECOND BAND WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC GIVEN BUDGET RESTRICTIONS ON CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE.

3. WHILE WE REALIZE VALUE DISPLAYING RANGE OF U.S. TALENT, ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT WEIN OFFERING COMPATIBLE WITH CURRENT CZECHOSLOVAK TASTES WHICH FAVOR CONVENTIONAL. FURTHER, PRAGOKONCERT WOULD PROBABLY NOT GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO BAND WHICH IT FEELS DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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WIDE FOLLOWING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CONTINUED SUPPORT WEIN

USEFUL TO EXTENT IT SATISFIES LOCAL NEEDS BUT WE SEE NO
REASON CU SHOULD BE LIMITED HIS CLIENTS IF OTHER AGENTS
CAN OFFER COMPARABLE MUSICIANS.

BYRNE

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